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4. (amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, [2 or 3,] wherein the recoil buffering means comprises a buffering cylinder (17) having a piston (23) attached thereto, the piston (23) being slidable relative to the buffering cylinder (17), and the piston (23) and buffering cylinder (17) being arranged so that sliding movement therebetween provides the buffering action.

A2

7. (amended) Apparatus according to claim 4, [5, or 6 when dependent upon claim 3,] wherein the support means includes a support platform (31), and one end of the recoil buffering means is directly secured to the support platform (31) and wherein the piston (23) of the recoil buffering means is pivotally secured to the support platform (31).

8. (amended) Apparatus according to claim 4, [5, 6 or 7, when dependent upon claim 2,] wherein the support means includes a cradle (21), and the recoil buffering means is slid able along the cradle (21) and wherein the buffering cylinder (17) of the recoil buffering means is slid able along the cradle (21).

10. (amended) Apparatus according to [any one of claims 4 to 9] claim 4, wherein the recoil buffering means comprises two of said buffering cylinders (17) and pistons (23).

A3  
11. (amended) Apparatus according to [claim 10, when dependent upon] claim 9, wherein the recoil buffering means comprises two of said buffering cylinders (17) and pistons (23) and wherein the cradle (21) includes two of said apertures, each aperture receiving a respective one of said buffering cylinders (17).

12. (amended) Apparatus according to [and preceding claim] claim 1, wherein the support means is arranged such that, in use, there is no direct connection between the support means and the barrel (12) or the breech assembly (15).

A4  
15. (amended) Apparatus according to claim 13 [or 14]], wherein the support means includes a cradle (21) adapted to support the barrel (12) directly or indirectly, and at least one support member (22) secured at one end to the cradle (21) and at the other end to a support platform, wherein the piston and cylinder (40) are secured to the cradle (21) so that they can provide support for the barrel (12) and the breech

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assembly (15).

16. (amended) Apparatus according to [chains] claim 13, [14 or 15,] wherein there are two of said pistons and cylinders (40).

17. (amended) Apparatus according to claim [15 and] 16, wherein the support means includes a cradle (21) adapted to support the barrel (12) directly or indirectly, and at least one support member (22) secured at one end to the cradle (21) and at the other end to a support platform, wherein the piston and cylinder (40) are secured to the cradle (21) so that they can provide support for the barrel (12) and the breech assembly (15) and wherein a connecting member (33) is connected between the support platform (31) and each of said pistons and cylinders (40), and a cross-connecting member (36) is connected between said pistons and/or between each of said cylinders (40).

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22. (amended) Apparatus according to claim 19 [20 or 21], wherein tensioning means ~~is~~ provided to maintain the drive cable (39) in tension.

23. (amended) Apparatus according to claim 19, [20, 21 or 22,] wherein the drive cable (39) extends at least partly around the guide member.

24. (amended) Apparatus according to [any one do claims 19 to 23], claim 19 wherein the support means includes at least one support member adapted to support the barrel (12) and the breech assembly.

A6  
26. (amended) Apparatus according to [any one of claims 19 to 25] claim 19 wherein the guide member is provided with a T-shaped recess, and the support means is provided with a formation adapted to engage the recess, thereby guiding movement of the support means along the guide member.

A7  
29. (amended) An elevating apparatus according to claim 27 [or 28], wherein the or each extendible support member comprises a piston and cylinder arrangement.

30. (amended) An artillery gun comprising a breech assembly (15) connected to a barrel (12) the breech assembly (15) having a firing mechanism for firing a projectile through an open end of the barrel (12), and further comprising a recoil

cont A7

buffering apparatus [according to any one of claims 1 to 12] comprising a recoil buffering means adapted to be integrated or otherwise secured to the barrel (12) and movable therewith during recoil action of the barrel (12) caused by firing of the projectile (60), and support means associated with the recoil buffering means for supporting the recoil buffering means and thereby supporting the barrel (12) and breech assembly (15) through the recoil buffering means, an elevating apparatus [according to any one of claims 13 to 18 or claims 27 to 29] comprising a support means adapted to support the barrel (12) and breech assembly (12), and an elevating mechanism for raising and lowering the barrel (12), wherein the elevating mechanism includes a piston and cylinder (4) which are arranged such that relative movement between the piston and cylinder (40) causes the barrel (12) to be raised or lowered, and/or a traversing apparatus according to [any one of claims] claim 19 [to 26].

31. (amended) An artillery gun according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the artillery gun is platform or vehicle mounted.

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32. (amended) An artillery gun according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the artillery gun is a mortar gun.

*A8*

36. (amended) A mortar gun according to claim 34 [or 35], wherein the muzzle break (11) comprises a plurality of apertures provided in the barrel (12).

37. (amended) A mortar gun according [to any one of claims] claim 34 [to 36], further comprising a recoil buffering apparatus [according to any one claims 1 to 12], comprising a recoil buffering means adapted to be integrated or otherwise secured to the barrel (12) and movable therewith during recoil action of the barrel (12) caused by firing of the projectile (60), and support means associated with the recoil buffering means for supporting the recoil buffering means and thereby supporting the barrel (12) and breech assembly (15) through the recoil buffering means an elevating apparatus [according

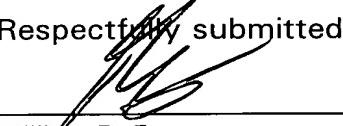
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to any one of claims 13 to 18 or 27 to 29], comprising a support means adapted to support the barrel (12) and breech assembly (12), and an elevating mechanism for raising and lowering the barrel (12), wherein the elevating mechanism includes a piston and cylinder (4) which are arranged such that relative movement between the piston and cylinder (40) causes the barrel (12) to be raised or lowered and/or a traversing apparatus [according to any one of claims 19 to 26] comprising a breech assembly (15) connected to a barrel (12), the breech assembly (15) having a firing mechanism, for firing a projectile through an open end of the barrel (12), the traversing apparatus comprising: a support platform (31) which is adapted to support the barrel and breech assembly in such a manner that said barrel (12) and breech assembly (15) may rotate relative to the support platform (31) in order to impart a traversing motion to the barrel and breech assembly, the support platform including an arcuate guide member having support means adapted to support the barrel (12) and breech assembly (15) so that the support means follows the guide member during said traversing motion of the barrel (12) and breech assembly (15); and drive means secured to the support means and adapted to drive movement of the support means along the guide member to cause said traversing motion, wherein the

Concl A 8

drive means comprises a drive wheel (38) and a drive cable (39) wrapped around the drive wheel or in connection therewith, the drive cable being substantially fixed relative to the guide member so that rotation of the drive wheel (38) causes the drive wheel (38) to be driven along the guide member.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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